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June 11, 1998

The Honorable Samuel R. Berger
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
National Security Council
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Berger:

I am writing with regard to the President's upcoming trip to China. As you may be aware, I have called on the President to cancel his trip in light of the many unresolved questions about the Chinese government's role in attempting to influence U.S. elections and illegally obtaining U.S. missile technology. However, if the President intends to go forward with his trip, which appears to be the case, I believe that it is essential that he press China for more cooperation with ongoing investigations in these areas.

One area in which my Committee has received little or no cooperation is in obtaining information about wire transfers from the Bank of China to key figures in our foreign fundraising investigation. For example, more than \$1.3 million was wired from overseas to bank accounts controlled by Yah Lin "Charles" Trie, including at least \$900,000 through the Bank of China. Many of these transfers occurred just prior to DNC fundraising events, and have been tied to contributions to those events. Along the same lines, more than \$650,000 was wired by the Bank of China to Johnny Chung, who recently pled guilty to Federal election law violations. Mr. Chung has reportedly told Justice Department investigators that he received roughly \$300,000 from a senior Chinese businesswoman with close ties to the People's Liberation Army, and that some of that money was used for political contributions.

Following are a few examples of wire transfers about which this Committee is seeking further information:

- On May 11, 1994, Charlie Trie received a \$100,000 wire transfer through the Bank of China from Macau financier Ng Lap Seng. Shortly thereafter, Trie made his first contributions to the DNC, totalling \$100,000.

- On February 14, 1996, \$150,000 was wired to a Riggs Bank account jointly controlled by Mr. Trie and Mr. Ng. This came just five days prior to the February 19 DNC dinner at the Hay Adams Hotel. \$37,500 in conduit contributions were funneled from this account to the DNC for this event by Trie's assistant, Keshi Zhan. Further investigation by this Committee has shown that Ms. Zhan held a joint bank account with an attache from the Chinese Embassy and a senior official of China Everbright, a large Chinese government owned holding company controlled by China's State Council.
- On August 7, 1996, Mr. Trie received a \$200,000 wire transfer through the Bank of China, again from Ng Lap Seng in Macau. This transfer came shortly before the President's birthday party fundraiser in New York City. This Committee's investigation determined that \$10,000 of those funds were donated to the DNC through Mr. Trie's sister, Manlin Fong. According to our investigation and the Justice Department's indictment of Trie, another \$80,000 was delivered to Trie associate Antonio Pan, who parceled it out to several conduit contributors in Los Angeles.
- On March 6, 1995, Johnny Chung received a \$150,000 wire transfer from Winlick Inv. Ltd. and the Haomen Beer Company through the Bank of China branch in Beijing. He then donated \$50,000 from this same account to the DNC, a donation that he personally delivered to the First Lady's Chief of Staff, Margaret Williams, at the White House.
- On April 21, 1995, Mr. Chung received a \$235,000 wire transfer from Gold Treasure, Ltd. through the Bank of China branch in Canada.
- On October 19, 1995, Mr. Chung received a wire transfer of \$130,000 from Brilliance Finance Company, Ltd., through the Bank of China branch in Hong Kong.

Mr. Chung contributed a total of \$366,000 to the DNC.

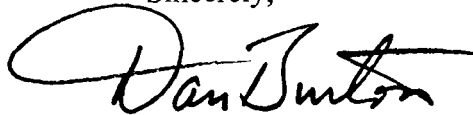
Without the cooperation of the Bank of China, we have no way of determining the original source of these funds. In a January 13, 1998 letter, the lawyer for the Bank of China informed us that the Bank is wholly owned by the government of China, and under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, is not required to respond to our subpoenas. While the Bank has agreed to provide bank records for accounts based in the United States, it has refused to provide the Committee with any information from its branches overseas. Without such information, it is impossible to determine the ultimate source of the funds wired to both Mr. Trie and Mr. Chung.

The Honorable Samuel R. Berger
Page 3

When President Jiang Zemin visited the United States last year, he promised President Clinton that the People's Republic of China would cooperate with U.S. Government investigations in this area. The lack of cooperation we have received from the Bank of China demonstrates that the Chinese government has not lived up to this pledge. When the President travels to Beijing, I request that he take up this matter with President Jiang once again, and insist that the Chinese government provide this Committee and the Justice Department with all information being sought from the Bank of China. I would also request that President Clinton ask President Jiang to reverse his government's decision to deny visas to this Committee's investigators so they can travel to Beijing and Hong Kong to conduct interviews.

I appreciate your assistance in this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Burton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dan Burton
Chairman